There is a story of a wood carver who sought

for years to attain an ideal. He procured for himself a great variety of exotic and costly

woods, all of which were of no help to him, and rewarded him only with the memory of their

great expense. Finally one evening as he sat gasing dreamily and despondently into the fire.

an inspiration seized him; he caught up a halfarned stick from the fading embers, set to

work upon it with a chisel that he was hardly

conscious of directing, and produced a master-

piece. The moral of this is, of course, that the artist does well to avail himself of the material which lies close

at hand; a dit is true that a great many sincere

friends of Mr. H. U. Chatfield-Taylor desire

most earnestly that he would write a novel about the Princess Eulalia and the Duke of

dom of the city of Chicago when they came to

this country from Spain to do honor to the great Columbus celebration of several years ago.

Contrary to what everybody has persistently

which Mr. Chatfield Taylor has published has

been concerned with the Princess and the Duke.

Of course, literally this may be said to be exotic

sessed of the potentiality of inspira-tion, and that it would grow into an

exceedingly interesting novel under Mr.

said to be strange and deterring material to him. However, in the absence of that which w

desire, we should doubtiess be thankful for

what we can get, and "The Vice of Fools," by this experienced and gifted author (Herbert S.

Stone & Co.) will keep slive a fame which

promises to be secure, even through the Duke

and the Princess should be ignored forever. Mr.

Chatfield-Taylor, according to report, invented

a year or two ago the plan, said to be very val-

mable in Chicago, of changing one's clothes in

cab, so that one may go with the least possible

delay from business to any sort of formal evening entertainment. Whether this re-

port is true or not, it seems to contain

a very valuable suggestion, and there is no

reason why anybody should-be ashamed to have

at is not to be denied that there is no particular

need to elaborate such a plan in a novel, unless

one is a very scrupulous realist indeed, and we hasten to say that in "The Vice of Fools" no-

body changes his clothes in a cab, and that it is

the general interest of the story that anybody

should. A certain disappointment attaches t

of Washington instead of a story of Chicago. In an earlier novel Mr. Chatfield-Taylor slew

the nearer wish and chilled the larger enthusias:

of his friends by slighting Chicago and devot

ing his attention to the British aristocracy. As

always had a plenty of very nice shoes in conse

quence, spent most of her time in England

The characters in the new story include a worthy young Lieutenant of cavalry, who dis-

tinguishes himself in a labor riot by engaging

successfully in a boxing match with a burly and

arrogant butcher; an unworthy diplomatist, a

half-worthy General, a beautiful girl torn be

who says such rude things that she would surely

be bastinadoed if she said them in Chi a. It

leaves an agreeable impression that the girl

the General, a sort of jugger aut of political in fluence and wealth, should die providentially

after a due period of remorse; that the beautiful

and distracted girl should reward the Lieuten-

ant who licked the butcher, and that the rude

liant, even if it is somewhat formidable. The

author to present in this novel a group of peo-

Perhans nobody nowadays is analist

are stories about him-stories similar to those in regard to other historic characters, which a

story there is no great liberty taken with Wash-

Gen. Knox. The dialogue is not exactly veri-

similar, but it can only be doubted, and not

positively be denied, that anything like it ever

occurred. Probably these incidental matters

yet taken as seriously as Mr. Howells and others

like him hope that it will be. What is certain is

that Miss Skeel and Mr. Brearley have produced

on, and here is a love story of much interest,

nicely interwoven with the main idea. The rec-

is in no doubt as to whether Washington will be

not absolutely accurate. Moreover, it is recom

sure had been out for no good purpose

(page 194), and "Sallie had no mind to confess

an intimacy with one man to another whom she

fancied craved a like preference," is not to be

quite accurate. But these are little matters l

Washington" is told with a good deal of dramat

Fitch, in evolving the series of imaginary con-

Stone & Co.), has attempted to pose as a con-scientious realist. We incline rather to the be-

lief that he has given free play to a sufficiently

to be of New York, whom he makes the object of

his mil : satire, are "smart," We have his

word for it-writ large upon the title page;

and as many of them seem to have sisters, aunts, or cousins married to members of the

British aristocracy, and as they all talk and write of "the Royalties," "the Prince," and

other persons of that kind with a certain famil-

farity, we may assume that, if not actually

within the sacred circle that incloses all

those who assu e to be really "smart," they

are at least hanging somewhere on the out-

skirts. Mr. Fitch has certainly not attempted to

of his are a vulger lot, but we wish he had man-

aged to make them somewhat more interesting.

from the pages of La Vie Purisienne, with a

left out, Lady Aires, possibly from Topeka

Countess of Uphara her impressions of Bay

reuth and the Wagner operas, and we learn

while for the Valkyrie she were her new mauve and pale green-items of information

that, to say the least, are not wildly exciting.

Continued on Eighth Page,

As it is, much of their conversation and their

disguise the fact that these imaginary characters

ic undertanding, and is distinctly readable. It is not necessary to suppose that Mr. Clyde

ommendation of the tale is its readableness—cer-

into much worse company.

reader will perceive that it is the desire of the

should discover the perfidy of the diplomat; that

tween love, avarice and revenge, and a widow

the fact that "The Vice of Fools" is a story

not at all esse tial to the plot or necessary t

invented a plan of the sort. At the same time

Chatfield-Taylor's shaping. It can hardly be

material, but everybody feels that it is not

ped and expected, none of the several novels

Veragua, who enjoyed through him the fre-

Massas se se sessas

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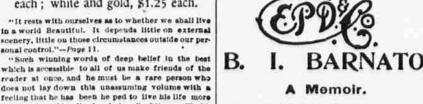
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